

philosophy and basic community building examples were valuable.

- I had a significant job change during this project and was unable to participate.
- would have been nice if we'd had more time to explore the issues in depth. also, it would have been nice had the FCC taken a more active role in seeking input from the people on the discussion list.
- Ya'll got too technical for me.
- The variety of opinions and scenarios opened my eyes to the problems and pitfalls of universal-service.
- Some of the discussions included technical information that I did not understand. However, that is **exactly** why universal service access is important. We who have not had the opportunity to know about some kinds of technology need exposure to possibilities in order to make wise choices.
- only real problem I see is, information is overwhelming, too much information coming at once. From the ideal of "Free net" I have begun conversation with a local provider to start a Free net for our community organization's outreach people
- The irony is that the materail was both too broad and too narrow. Access, discussed freeform, is exceptionally broad, but we never really dealt very usefully with what motivates folks to be present on the net -- i.e., content.

How it comes to be

How it is made usable

How it is made useful

We seem content with a model that develops most of its content for commercial purposes, even if that purpose is advertising. This is not necessarily bad but it is out of balance, and it has major implication for access. Access to what ... never got much of a look, even as a theoretical discussion.

- While the topics were relevant, many of the comments were not and were not productive to the discussion. I found myself only skimming them because they were not useful.
- None of the above. I found the level of discourse shallow.
- Perhaps their could be a different organization of discussion groups, such that people of "similar" background could delve into conversations that uncover new understandings, and "cross" discipline discussions where those unfamiliar with the issues and practices of particular communities could be introduced to the operant habits of mind in these new areas. This would require having people serve as two distinct types of correspondant/ facilitator for each group.
- There may be too many issues to deal with to permit advance planning. Universal

access may require faith on the part of the government that schools will use allotted monies to the district's best needs.

- The moderator's comments and directing suggestions were especially useful in focusing topic discussion.
- I thought that the moderator, did a great job in steering the discussion the way it needed to be going.
- All topics were informative; I got frustrated when people repeated the same information. They were better than me as I never even found time to even repeat somethings.
- Issues not too complex, but complexity is involved when there are so many resources, most of which are industry self-serving ones.
- The topics were timely and relevant. I had to drop the seminar. The depth of the topics were beyond my expertise, though I feel that I gained a greater understanding of the issues by being able to eavesdrop on the conversation.
- My lack of technical knowledge re bandwidths etc. often left me feeling overwhelmed. I did, however, learn quite a bit.
- The seminar provided a lot of good dialogue but never got focused enough to enable a clear mutual vision to be established among participants.
- The dialogue was exceptionally focused and rich.
- Everyone is so eager to post their opinions and ideas that the discussions often rambled or became repetitive. There should be a period for brainstorming, but that must be followed by analysis and some conclusion (whether the final answer or not.) I'm afraid I did not make it through much of the material of the last few weeks.
- Got very specific. I wish there could have been more time spent on broader theories.
- I'm not sure I really mean "too broad to cover" but it was an extraordinary amount of information to assimilate. However, having this available online is a great help. The Technology Board I serve on for Brownwood includes representatives from the community and public schools, and the subcommittee I have on Public Access will find the online information useful over and over. Whether they could understand it all in five weeks is doubtful, but having the information to refer to is invaluable. The topics covered are exactly the ones we were charged to cover as well.
- The original advertisement of this on-line seminar was not as clearly stated as it could have been. I expected to find much more relevant material about curriculum and teaching practices.

- I would like to see discussion held with only classroom teachers involved. Where the rubber meets the road sort of discussion. I saw some issues where educators need to provide input. Universal access is moot if electricity is the wiring needed in the classroom! don't dismiss this as a joke! I do my telecommunications from home and use my classroom a little but I have to run wire all over to get things to work.
 - Hard to keep up with all the information that was coming in.
 - All the information was a little overwhelming at first but I believe it's all important
 - Considering the voices of prospective users was forward thinking.
 - THE SEMINAR WAS VERY INFORMATIVE TO ME AS A PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR. SOME OF THE INFORMATION COVERED REALLY BROAD IN NATURE. THE VOLUME OF THE REPOSSES WAS GREAT, BUT SOMETIMES OVERWHELMING.
 - Shortly after I signed up for this seminar, I began receiving a flood of messages on the topic and simultaneously became heavily involved in a series of work-related tasks. As a result I spent very little time with these messages. My impression is that the issues are more complex than I am willing to deal with at this time.
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Other Comments and Suggestions on the On-line Material

- It would be nice if they continued to be available for some time after the seminar.
- I didn't use the archive because everything was coming in email evry day -- if I'd known how to turn that off and just use the archive, I would have. Should have asked you!
- We, including me, became redundant in our own fields of expertise. The diversity of individuals helped, but there is a more diverse field of people that were not on line. Who has the time to read all that information! Perhaps you could ask each of us, now to summarize a part of the documents, on line discussion, etc. to finalize this useful, yet open ended discussion.
- As with any seminar a few individuals were the major contributors to discussion. You might have gotton more individuals to participate if general discussion was limited and more questionnaires developed for seminar input. I am not a telecommunications expert nor one who lives and breathes telecommunications, so will tend to be a listener rather than a contributor. However, I do have opinions and through the questionnaire process they could have been better drawn out.

- All the on-line materials served a function
- All good and well arranged.
- Had I enjoyed the facilities and training to use the Threaded presentations, I believe I would have learned more quickly.
- There was such a wealth of information. They were all valuable although, there was never enough time to read it or keep-up.
- At times unable to download all of text, suggest that the email be attached as an enclosure. We solved the problem by copying the file as text and loading into word document
- I found the participant's contributions to be at considerable variance to what I thought the law was saying. Consequently, a high noise level (not unusual in newsgroups, of course).
- The digest format was the best for me since I could only access once or twice a day.
- the repository is esp. helpful, though it would be more so if it were kept up to date.
- I only used e-mail.
- Very valuable. At times, it seemed some participants were dominating the contributions. Some, like me, were too busy to jump in, but throughly enjoyed the discussions and rebuttals.
- I did not check the above question due again to the overwhelming amount of info. The weekly summaries were what I used to keep up, but with time limitations it was very difficult to read all of the items, let alone answer any of them
- This may be my fault. A problem with online teaching is that it does not carve out a satisfactory niche in students' daily lives, and it lives in the untidy corners of our day-to-day activities. I simply didn't have the time needed.
- None of the above
- Had this seminar happened before the start of the school year, I would have had the time to devote to reviewing the comprehensive set of materials you provided. Unfortunately, this was not even a remote possibility.
- I didn't use any supporting documents.
- The libraries and archives were exteremly complete and provided valuable background information before the discussion, and useful updates while the discussion was going on.

- I tried to follow the Conference with print-outs of the materials send to my e-mail, but many were so big it got to a point my quota was exceded, having troubles even to read my other e-mail. Next time I will use the www page instead of my e-mail address.

- In future similar resources should be made available, as I am sure they would be.

Now that the FCC has a search engine it will be easier to find things there as well.

- I was unaware of the weekly summaries and the archive. Not sure how I missed it. Perhaps got too caught up in the other two.
 - On-line dialogues should have been filtered more. Responses should have more often had the original message separated from them.
 - Thank you to the people that took time to prepare the weekly summaries.
 - I did not have occasion once during the five weeks to wish something else was online. You did an outstanding job of letting us keep up with everything, and having the actual e-mail available to review was extraordinarily helpful.
 - Since I was a non-participant, I don't have a basis for responding to this question.
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Other Comments and Suggestions on the Surveys

- Not of GREAT value but useful. At least by answering the surveys I felt that I was participating a LITTLE. It mitigated guilt.
- Could have been developed in more detail. Information generated from the surveys was of a general nature and in the long run not too helpful to the decision making process.
- It made me aware of the needs of others. Focus in on own problems sometimes and forget that others face other types of problems which also need to be looked at. However, from this seminar I wonder if all the problems can be solved to the satisfaction of all.
- Not so much "shallow" as the issues just being too complex to state a specific opinion without having more detail on or a better understanding of the context.
- I felt I was not well enough informed to be able to vote intelligently.
- I think the surveys were one of the best means of helping to keep focus and report back results from all participants.

- I didn't use the surveys.
- While it is a good way to assess the group, the audience may not be the right audience.
- I saw such diversity in background, experience and agendas among the participants that the act of completing the survey often left me feeling that my answers were forced into categories I'd not have otherwise chosen.
- Need to have an investigation on what services/tools are available. This should be totally independent of personal bias. The community needs a resource for use when/if they implement any site/resource in the future. This can include past experiences with said items, so individuals can have a 1 to 1 give and take on controversial ideas.
- They were useful, it was myself and bad timing as far as scheduling goes that I did not take advantage of it.
- Good way to summarize trend of participants.
- Surveys are useful only if everyone responds. You did an excellent job of following up, and it appears that you got a fairly good response. Survey questions with their answers may be a useful tool for the next round of discussions.
- I never got a survey ? Maybe I missed it but the e-mail was all I got and never saw a survey/
- The surveys were useful gain an idea of how others were thinking. Such surveys and online conversations will be important to districts and institutions implementing innovation technology grants in the future.
- I thought it was interesting seeing others views and how others thought about the world around us.

Please add other observations you might have on the mechanics of the seminar.

- Although I had some access to the Web, I mostly relied on email and that didn't seem sufficient to keep up with the discussion.
- The materials, assignments, and surveys were very useful. One more week might have been helpful; but the short time has its own advantages in terms of focussing on making progress through the materials.

- You warned us about the time but it still turned out to be more than I could do and I felt bad about not participating in the discussion. It was all I could do to keep it read. I did appreciate when you started asking focussed questions so people's responses got more focussed.
- I have kept all the e-mail and sorted by responder, topic, date agenda (occupation). In my third life-time I may be able to pick out trends, and get a handle on this thing.
- At first, I felt rather blown away by the depth of some participants' experiences and the topics under discussion. As the seminar moved along, I became more comfortable. While it was time-consuming, I learned a great deal and I am sorry to see it end.
- The beginning of the school year was a busy time for me.
- An overload on the e-mail system, especially useful for relevant comments; esp. annoying for those who only griped or "soapboxed" their opinions.
- I found the mechanics great! Problem was finding the time to do it all.
- I've noted a flurry of activity in the beginning and very little activity at the end (unless I've missed something.)

Too many subliminal issues undermine participants attempt to condense out exactly what the key questions are, as I noted in my above comment.

"Access" isn't black and white as an issue. Email access only gives greatest access per unit cost, but without good people to contact and collaborate with, its meaningless.

Bandwidth seems to be the hidden issue as opposed to dialup 28.8 local access which is already here in most communities, even communities of 500 here in Montana, (Wisdom) Heck, 3 providers in Dillon MT, pop. 4000.

Cut to the chase.

- See my comments above about threads. Unfortunate occurrences kept me from making best use of the Web organized materials.
- Regarding 2.d. I had two classes winding up, at the end of September -- with three projects in one and two in the other. Additionally, eight thesis students graduating at the same time. This participation consequently fell off the bottom of the priority list. The fact that the signal/noise ratio was pretty bad made that decision a lot easier.
- I wonder if it would be possible to have more than one level of discussion, or

several topics being discussed, and have the reviews present a overview of all.

- It seemed to me that the content was the same week after week.... I don't understand the techy side. Ya'll seemed to want to discuss techy issues A LOT. I'm a happy user. I was lost in most of your conversations. I just want to have access - how ya'll do that is beyond me. I want the children to have access. i want the parents to have access. JUST DO IT. Since we have phones and cable wired to each house, it seems reasonable to expect access to the Web, too - BUT we need tech support and lots of it. Which I said once and felt like it wasn't heard.....
- Preferred method was email, but I consulted the archived ddiscussions frequently.
- Actually, I thought it was conducted appropriately and thoroughly. The problem in my case was lack of time. That was NOT the fault of the seminar; it was that I have overextended myself and did not prepare adequately.
- To cover material like this, I would suggest material in week-long blocks, with intervals between for catch-up.

Once I fell behind and my reading backed up, it was hard to motivate the catch-up. This is a problem that still needs more attention in online teaching -- the role of the teacher as a motivator, cajoler, perhaps even as inspirational leader. When we think back on previous learning oppor- tunities, I thin most of us can distinguish between those "classes" that simply accessed a body of information and those that changed us, motivated us, inspired us.

I don't mean this as a major criticism of this seminar. It is a recurrent problem with online teaching. I think we need to study what makes a "good" online learning experience, though. More attention to the good models. I particularly like what _____ did with ROADMAP (internet course that originated at the University of Alabama). He broke it up into units that rarely took more than 15 minutes to complete, provided one unit a day, made most of the units focus on a specific task to be accomplished, and kept the tone light (sometimes even silly).

This seminar was a good experience, but as I tried to balance the seminar and insert it into my daily routine, I found I became more and more passive as the weeks went on, until I eventually "dropped out." This wasn't your fault, more mine than yours, but I dropped out nonetheless.

I have all my downloads in a folder. I fully intend to return to them. But you and I both know that I won't.

- I did not participate as much as others, but rather watched and tried to learn from the conversation. This allowed my time commitment to be lower than others. I felt some of the discussion was instructive and MUCH of it not. I am not sure how that gets better, or even if is should get better. Just a comment:-)
- Like a number of listserves in existence, the level of discourse was disappointing. I

removed myself from the list in the second week.

- Remember CoSN/FARnet? Having participants divide into groups based upon interest/expertise, having them craft materials which explain the issues and make recommendations, *then* having all participants gather to examine these, reflect upon them, and finally (unlike CoSN/FARnet) doing follow up activity to pull things together might make for a more powerful experience, and provide the FCC with more focused data.
- A very good job, I stop receiving mail though about two weeks ago and thought I had been taken off list. If, I was amidst in comment or participation (which I was not), it would have been nice to have some message accordingly. Otherwise, I enjoyed the discussion, and thought it provided a much needed forum. This needs to continue, people need to take this 1st step and follow up with future ones. Rome was not built in a day, and any good solution takes iterative revisiting on possible a yearly basis.

As we develop software, we use just such a timeframe for a life-cycle. Thanks, for your consideration, and feel free to call on me for any future needs,

thankfully yours,

- Again, I feel that the seminar was a great service to those that participated. It was organized and professionally done. It was my scheduling conflict and not having connection to the internet while I was traveling, so I would get back to the office and read the e-mails once a week. I felt it was myself that let the seminar down by not participating fully in the discussion.
- As I pointed out before, next time I'll try "Web only."
- The experience of this seminar will prove to be most helpful in organizing future seminars.

Certainly the networking possibilities were of a beneficial nature and this can't be discounted when assessing the overall success of the project.

- I lurked throughout the seminar, partly because of my lack of technical knowledge and partly because of a lack of time. Some weeks I read quite a bit. Others not. My main concern was for equity, especially for inner city, minority students and adult learners. I did not see a lot of discussion around this issue. I wish I had taken the time to make at least one statement about it.
- I would have participated more if I had used the email delivery as well. My preference would have been to just get the weekly summaries, or even a daily summary via email as a reminder to check the Web for content.
- I'm sorry but without an email to remind me of the seminar I simply forgot about it.

- I indicated that it was not long enough, however, I would have found it difficult to participate longer. Perhaps breaks between assignments would work? There was so very much material, and so little time!
- I feel bad in that I did not participate at the level I had wanted. Mostly this was because I was promoted to a new job and I didn't have the time. I wish there had been more surveys (similar to this one) that would have allowed me to check various pieces of information which could have been tabulated.
- I liked this set up. I would be willing to participate in another online seminar set up this way.
- Next time maybe try some CU-SeeMe meetings.
- **THE USE OF BOTH E-MAIL AND THE WEB WAS A GREAT WAY TO REACH A BROADER AUDIENCE. EXCELLENT USE OF RESOURCES!!**
- The approach taken to this seminar was interesting, and I hope it will be used on future occasions. However, I found it to be overwhelming, at least at this particular time. The sheer volume of information in the e-mailings alone, plus the complexity of the subject, and the extensive collection of background materials, required a good more time and concentration than I was able to give. It is quite possible that the topic is too specialized for me, and that I could have participated better if the information had been summarized and digested more.

Please add any other comments you have on the value of the seminar, on how you intend to use the information you gained here, and on whether you think that there should be similar activities in the future.

- I have been sharing information about the seminar w/my school district's technology consultant, our county library, a freenet, and the local high school district. I believe that this legislation has the potential to change education for the better, and possibly to further many social and economic goals of our nation. I plan to learn more about how networks are formed and hope to be part of one for my school district or local community.
- I think it was very valuable. I learned a lot. It was indeed the best moderated discussion I've tried. Getting the focussed questions out sooner in the discussion would be my only suggestion and corral some people (few) whoe really got off topic.
- I am the liason between our conference and our local SpiritNet Board. I am to report to them concerning the same information you are asking here, in greater detail. That is why I am looking through your web site and the e-mail. Please keep

the data handy through this year (1996) if possible. Thank you for allowing me to participate. Jan

- In response to 3d. I possibly might recommend such a seminar to individuals in the future. My recommendation would be based on content, how it is moderated and what its end goals are.
- Thanks, Bob and Laurie, for the opportunity to participate.
- I'm involved in community access video in a town library setting. Few participants from from the PEG access TV or library communities spoke up on the mailing list. I wish more had. I found the heavy e-mail traffic by public school computing professionals and by communication technology consultants a bit intimidating. However, their comments were most appropriate .. just excessively frequent by certain individuals!
- Trailing along behind government's efforts to control of an activity is difficult. The seminars might be better directed at smaller substantive issues where private sector performance can be developed/enhanced before the need for government dominance.
- Once you've pulled together such a collection of interested (and knowledgeable) people, it's a shame to end the seminar, especially since the Universal Service proceeding is still active. Providing some forum for continuing discussion, sharing information, etc. would be nice.
- Thanks, Laurie, for your contact.
- Aside from being able to put my two cents in every once in a while I learned a lot regarding the depth and breadth of the issues. This is important not only for "citizen" understanding but also for remaining an "informed educator".
- Overall this was a profoundly outstanding demonstration of how to conduct public input. The info-ren folks did an outstanding job!!! The FCC need to not muddle issues by inadvertantly mixing apples and oranges. The FCC should do its own homework before engaging citizens; i.e. simplify the REAL questions to be asked of citizens, otherwise the FCC risks looking as though its input efforts are less than sincere.

I'm available for further input at any time. I would not have participated to the extent I have without this info-ren initiative. See you next go'round!

- I have condensed the e-mail discussions into a 2" binder, and plan to use the material as reference and source material as the Task Force on Technology undergoes metamorphosis to a Technology Committee, a smaller body, more like a board of directors, able to make contracts, & agreements, commit funds, and set policy. The membership of the new body is to be named by the City Council on October 10. Wish me good speed. I look forward to seeing the summary of this

exchange.

- I would like to thank Information Renaissance, Bob Carlitz and Laurie Maak for putting forth the tremendous effort to help the K-12 education community understand these complex issues. It has been a great benefit and is a great start to helping us ensure the very best in communications services are available to our schools.
- I really didn't have the time to fully participate or to even read all of the traffic. However, Generally, a great idea, but way too time intensive for me personally. I hope to use the archives extensively to review some of the discussions.
- Thanks to the organizers for providing this forum! Very thought-provoking, overwhelming, and helpful!
- I personally considered the seminar very valuable and interesting. Representing a funder of the seminar, I felt it was most appropriate for me not to become actively engaged in the dialogue – but I was quite active as a lurker!

I also consider the whole process to be a model of effective and robust use of Internet media – a dynamic demonstration of the value the Web.

- What we needed was some authoritative input. For example, my reading of the law is that the Act fairly narrowly defines 'carrier' and that definitely does not include Internet service providers. Further, the Act prohibits cross-subsidization so we cannot use funds collected from the carriers to support non-regulated ISPs in the quest of universal service. This is not a question that the average school teacher or administrator can handle -- we needed somebody literate in the Act. And never got it. Consequently, we had a lot of continuing discussion on what I think is a moot point.
- My interest in the subject is related to schools and how they use the new resources. Much of the technical content was over my head. That, and the time involved, were the reasons I did not remain active. I'd love to see another project formed which would limit itself to school-related issues. This one was done very well, indeed!
- IMHO this was an invaluable part of my personal technological education. The impact of the '96 Telecommunications Act has yet to be felt by the general public or by the education & library communities. This seminar has given me more information to help deal with the coming media wars(e.g., Time-Warner vs. Fox) that will vie for the educational markets.

Bob, thanks again.

- I ended up not participating very much – probably because I know too much about the topic already.

- All the information given in this seminar is valuable for me in terms of everything. I expect to use the information in my courses and in the future as a teacher. I greatly appreciate your collaboration with me in this matter.
- Yes, we need similar seminars, however, less technical.
- It was GREAT!!!!
- I had no expectations. I don't expect the FCC to listen to me.
- Perhaps the same seminar should be done again in 12 months, and see if any progress has been made. Thanks for reminding me to complete the survey.

Best to all,

- I definitely want to see as well as participate in similar activities. I was unable to actively participate as much as I initially intended because my school and research schedule demanded more time than I had anticipated.

Everyone involved with the production of this seminar deserves a JOB WELL DONE and a four-day pass to Cancun.

- I generally enjoy participating in discussions like this one because it is educational for me. There is a great deal of technology that I need to know more about. Reading the comments of others provides different points of view that I may not consider otherwise. Even though *I* may not be able to contribute as much as I would like, I certainly learn a lot!
- As stated earlier as a community organization we needed a way to allow special residents access to the internet. This would allow kids that use this person (block captain) an expanded view of the world around them. All done without funding of any sort. We have linked up with a local computer supplier to give us the used computers he takes in on trade. We distribute these to the block captains which in turn give access to the kids in their immediate neighborhood. Thanks for the great idea!!, looking forward to the next session, hope it does not have as much email as this one did some days I received over 40 letters, too much for me to read in one or two sittings. Thanks again
- I gained knowledge. In that sense, the course was a success for me. I also gradually lost interest in the subject. In that sense, the course was actually counter-productive.

I am probably more likely to return to the subject in the future on a "need to know" basis, as some of the issues actually begin to intrude more on my life/work/interests. Right now, though, except in rural areas, most of the folks I work with (and much of my work is with "at risk" kids and the homeless) already have access to a degree that is comparable to their access to a public library. They do not yet have access to a degree that is comparable to their access to a phone.

But in some queer ways, that level of access may be an appropriate one, or at least an acceptable one. In the allocation of resources, once a certain access-level threshold has been met, I know of many uses for our resources that I would give higher priority among the folks I work with than greater internet access. But I also understand the need to act now to establish structures that will determine how "access" take form in the future.

Thanks for doing this. I really appreciate all the work you put into this.

;-)

- I thought the seminar overall was very well done. However with young children in my family and a full time job as district librarian it was quickly over my head. I would have been much better off trying to do this type of thing in the summer months.
Thanks for your efforts
- Perhaps, strands of conversations where participants of varying levels of concern and interest can carry on side-bars (for lack of a better term).
- I found the experience stimulating, yet depressing. Although use of the Internet (and by extension implications for future educational telecommunications potentials) has revolutionized the way my students and I learn, I'm becoming convinced that by and large we, as a nation, are not ready to take advantage of what's being offered to us, and fear that this opportunity will be squandered, through lack of vision, insight and knowledge. If multimegabit connections magically appeared to every desktop in the nation's schools tomorrow, a year from now, they'd not be used. There is so much work to be done to make people (read: students, parents, neighbors, decisionmakers) aware of the valid uses and benefits this technology could bring to learning, such a short time frame to accomplish this, and the disconnect between pioneers and practitioners form a daunting set of conditions. The importance of your efforts to bridge these gaps is one source of encouragement that I hope can kindle an even brighter flame. Thanks for your excellent work!
- This seminar became too overwhelming too fast for me. I spend a great deal of time on email and web and I simply could not keep up. 40-50 email messages a day is too much. The way I received them on my email system was simply a straight stream, no threading. My impression was too much and too long of a time period. This was not a dialog, but fairly typical ravings of pedagogues on a soap box. There were a few thoughtful pieces, but I am not sure how this information is going to be sort to offer any reasonable information to advance policy on universal access. If this were to be run again, I would cut the participant list in half, and shorten the time to three days. I might also try to sort the groups a little more. Perhaps organizing 10 people from various corners of debate to discuss and "report out" to the next level. Sorry I wasn't an active voice, but I lost interest quickly due to the volume and content of the work.

- I was not able to participate in the seminar. If you would like to remove my name from the participants, please do so. I don't want to skew to result. Thank you
- Added those above, did not anticipate this comment box, sorry.
- I enjoyed reading the articles, but we are so far behind with the technology in our district, that I feel I could not adequately participate in the discussions. Perhaps in the future I would be better prepared.
- I feel that this is a very valuable service and you guys did a great job. I have already used the information gained through this seminar in talking with the Governor and other Idaho legislators. I am also in the process of getting information to the Technology Coordinators and Librarians in the state of Idaho. I feel that there should be similar activities as far as this type of seminar in the future.
- Topics covered by the participants give insights on many issues. The ideas presented helps us to develop ours, reinforcing arguments made before and giving new ideas of how to develop programs in our Campus. I specially liked the discussion about the amount of money to be allotted for each component of a technological plan: *equal* amount for equipment, training and maintenance. Having the computers in school is not enough, if the faculty does not know how to use or have no insights on how to integrate its use in the curriculum. Once this is accomplished, what happens when the computers don't work? Who will come to have the equipment up and running properly?
- I think the idea is an excellent one... the process just needs to be revised a bit....
- As I have said before in posts to the seminar one aspect of any topic is the widest possible view is necessary in addition to the particular viewpoints involved in that wide view. Both points of view must be emphasized. Thanks for your time and effort.
- This was excellent work. I hope you will be doing more such events in the future.
- I'd like to try it again in the future. I looked at the subject material today and it looks very informative. I guess I'm one of those that need someone to remind me that the posting and seminar is going on and take part in it.
- I subscribed to the seminar hoping to acquire more scope about our country's telecommunications infrastructure, specifically how it is being integrated into schools, disseminated across the population and what role the government does/could have in these. Frankly, the seminar proved advanced for me at times. But this is okay. (I'd rather feel challenged than bored.) I will use all of the messages I printed out for my edification—even though they are surely somewhat dated already.
- Yes on a topic of which I had adequate knowledge to converse. I felt very

inadequate as I was not as "techie" as many of the people in the seminar. Would like to have some prior info for preparation.

- Seminar participants consisted almost entirely of educators and library staff. Nearly all opinion and interpretation was slanted to point of view widely held by librarians and educators. I doubt if the opinions of this group would reflect the opinions of the population as a whole. And, because of this should not be weighted any more heavily than any other group trying to lobby for a particular set of Telecommunications Act implementation rules.

This type of seminar would be better served if it systematically included participants who were not the primary beneficiaries of the outcome. In other words, the seminar needs to include people who have to pay the bills not just people who benefit from the bills.

- Thank you Bob Carlitz, Laurie Maak and everyone involved.
- Answer to 3d. It really depends...
- As I have already mentioned, I have been charged with finding out as much as possible on the subject of universal access, and I can't imagine a better forum for preparing myself. Thank you all for your hard work and effort that went into putting together one of the better online seminars I have participated in. I would hope this would be an ongoing activity.
- Overall I think that the seminar was exceptionally well done, there seemed to be a majority of comments from a few, and I wasn't sure how to respond to a statement, the typical method would have been to the person making the comment and having it posted for review, instead, responses were required to be sent to the mailing list and then posted from there, this was confusing. I believed this cut down the number of responses to the system and limited the number of respondents. I learned about the activities of many other areas of the country, and the practices mainly of other school districts. What is still uncertain, is how proprietary schools not public schools are covered under the act. We are a proprietary school and a non profit so these issues concern me. It seems as if the act is silent on these issues. While I understand we are in the minority, we still serve an important service to those non profit agencies we serve.

I would like to see more of these forums in the future, but with a simpler method of responding to an individual statement, almost a recorded "chat".

Thank you for allowing us to participate

- I came on board a little late, and therefore my participation was hindered by the fact that I felt a little lost in the process.
- Excellent forum for discovering valuable information. I am using the information I gained in my everyday business activities. I hope we don't have to go through

another period like this anytime soon in communications policy, but I'm not holding my breath. We are living in interesting times.

- I intend to use the information from the seminar in the discussions my district is having as we wire all of our buildings for internet access and set up our own networks within the district.
- I say no because of the time factor. With some modifications as I commented on earlier, my feelings might be different.
- This was my first on-line seminar. I learned much through observation and plan to participate in others.
- Thanks for making this seminar possible.
- THERE SHOULD BE SEMINARS LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE. SOMETIMES WE ARE LIMITED IN IDEAS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ACROSS THE NATION. THIS SEMINAR GAVE DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE HOW THIS ACT WILL AFFECT US ALL. SAW DIFFERENT VIEWS THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE TO ME OTHERWISE.

THANKS FOR GIVING US A VOICE IN THIS!!

- An ongoing or open forum to exchange ideas on universal service might be helpful. Given the rapidity of change, ideas put forth last month are already stale. Overall, it was a good effort.

Thanks

- I thought this was a very good seminar, unfortunately I was not able to participate in it due to a couple of reasons. First, I was overwhelmed by the quantity of postings. Second, In addition to all of my normal duties here, I was providing 13 school districts with engineering assistance for grant applications they were writing for Internet access. Had I not been so busy, I would have been able to participate in seminar.

I did find many of the postings to be informative once I was able to read them, usually days after they were posted.

Overall, I would say it was a very good seminar, and I think there should be similar activities in the future.

Thanks,

- Sorry for my non-participation. In retrospect, I should not have signed up as web-only since I did not make time to even visit the page during the seminar. If I

had been in via email also I would have at least seen discourse and been goaded into participating. As it was, I let the rest of my life take over.

- I would recommend this (rather demanding) type of seminar only to someone who was deeply involved in the topic.

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Universal Service/Network Democracy

Useful Documents

This page contains documents that will be useful for participants in the Universal Service/Network Democracy on-line seminar. If you have suggestions for additional material that could be added to the list appearing below, please send your suggestions to info@info-ren.pitt.edu.

Telecommunications Act of 1996

This document is the basis of the on-line seminar. Passed in February, 1996, and currently in the process of implementation, this Act represents the first major revision of telecommunications law in 62 years. For ease in viewing of the sections particularly relevant to schools and libraries, we are providing the following excerpts on this server:

- Section 254: Universal Service
- Section 255: Access by Persons with Disabilities
- Section 706: Advanced Telecommunications Incentives
- Section 707: Telecommunications Development Fund
- Section 714: Telecommunications Development Fund
- Section 708: National Education Technology Funding

Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)

This document represents the first step in the FCC's rule making process on Universal Service. It provides a commentary on the Telecommunications Act, with specific questions on which public comment is invited. The majority of the public comments received by the FCC are available on-line at the Information Renaissance Web site. Excerpts of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making which deal explicitly with schools and libraries are listed below:

- IV. Schools, Libraries, and Health Care Providers
- V. Enhancing Access to Advanced Services for Schools, Libraries, and Health Care Providers

Request for Further Comments

This document requests comment on 72 specific items not addressed with specific detail in previous Comments and Reply Comments received by the FCC. It offers a good, concise guide to the key issues under discussion in the Universal Service debate. An excerpt of this document containing those questions which deal with schools and libraries has also been prepared.

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Return to Information Renaissance home page.

Comments, Reply Comments and Ex Parte Presentations

FCC Docket No. 96-45

In the Matter of Universal Service

The following alphabetical index lists all comments and reply comments, and selected *ex parte* presentations to the Federal Communications Commission on FCC Docket No. 96-45, which deals with the Universal Service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Each item listed contains a notation indicating whether it was obtained from an electronic version ("RTF"), scanned from a paper copy ("scanned") or linked directly to an on-line version ("linked"). Material that has been obtained on paper and is in the process of being scanned is so noted ("to scan").

If your company or organization has not provided electronic versions of material supplied to the FCC in electronic form and you would like to help **Information Renaissance** update the material at this site to provide a completely accurate version of your company's or organization's submissions to the FCC, please contact updates@info-ren.pitt.edu and indicate how you might provide us with an electronic version of your submissions, either by electronic mail or disk.

While we have tried to make the transcriptions provided on this site as accurate as possible, the sheer volume of the material and the short timeframe in which we are working inevitably leads to errors and omissions. If you spot any such errors, please write so that we may correct them. We will continue to scan new material and place it on-line throughout the Universal Service/Network Democracy seminar.

- 360° Communications Co.
 - [Comments](#) [RTF]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- AARP, CFA and Consumer's Union
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [scanned]
- Access to Communications for Education
 - [Comments](#) [RTF]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Ad Hoc Rural Consortium
 - [Reply Comments](#) [scanned]
- Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee
 - [Comments](#) [RTF]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Airtouch
 - [Comments](#) [RTF]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
 - Further Comments [to scan]

- Alabama PSC
 - Comments [scanned]
- Alabama–Mississippi Telephone Association
 - Comments [RTF]
- Alaska, State of
 - Comments [RTF]
- Alaska Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development
 - Comments [scanned]
- Alaska Library Association
 - Comments [scanned]
- Alaska Public Utilities Commission
 - Comments [RTF]
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- Alaska Telephone Association
 - Comments [to scan]
 - Further Comments [to scan]
- Alliance for Community Media
 - Reply Comments [scanned]
- Alliance for Distance Education in California
 - Comments [scanned]
- Alliance for Public Technology
 - Comments [scanned]
 - Comments [linked]
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
 - Further Comments [to scan]
- Allied Assoc. Partners, LP and Geld Info Systems
 - Comments [scanned]
- America's Carriers Telecommunication Association
 - Comments [RTF]
- American Association of Community Colleges
 - Comments [RTF]
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
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- American Federation of Teachers
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- American Foundation for the Blind
 - Comments [scanned]
- American Hospital Association
 - Comments [RTF]
- American Library Association
 - Executive Summary of Comments [linked]
 - Comments [linked]
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 - Further Comments [RTF]
- American Public Power Association
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
 - Ex Parte [scanned]

- American Telemedicine Association
 - Comments [scanned]
- Ameritech
 - Comments [scanned]
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- AMSC Subsidiary Corporation
 - Comments [scanned]
- Apple Computer
 - Comments [scanned]
 - Further Comments [to scan]
- Ardmore Telephone Company
 - Comments [RTF]
- Association for Local Telecommunications Services
 - Comments [scanned]
 - Reply Comments [scanned]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- Associated Communications and Research Services
 - Comments [scanned]
- Association of America's Public TV Stations
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 - Further Comments [RTF]
- AT&T
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 - Further Comments [RTF]
- Bar of the City of New York Admin. Law Committee
 - Comments [scanned]
- Bell Atlantic
 - Comments [linked]
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- BellSouth
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 - Addendum to Comments [scanned]
 - Reply Comments [scanned]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva Univ.
 - Comments [scanned]
- Benton Foundation
 - Comments [linked]
 - Reply Comments [linked]
 - Further Comments [linked]
- Black Community Crusade for Children
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- Blountsville Telephone Company
 - Comments [RTF]

- Reply Comments
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 - Comments [scanned]
- California Dept. of Consumer Affairs
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- California Department of Education
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
- California Library Association
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 - Further Comments [to scan]
- California State Library
 - Comments [scanned]
- Cathey, Hutton & Associates
 - Reply Comments [scanned]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- CEDAR
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
- Cellular Telecommunication Industry Association
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- Center for Civic Networking, et al.
 - Comments [scanned]
- Central Montana Communications, Inc.
 - Reply Comments [scanned]
- Century Telephone & TDS Telecom
 - Comments [RTF]
 - Reply Comments [RTF]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- Cheyenne River Sioux Telephone Authority and Golden West
 - Comments [RTF]
- Churchill County Telephone and Telegraph
 - Comments [scanned]
- Cincinnati Bell
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 - Reply Comments [RTF]
- Citizens for a Sound Economy Foundation
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 - Reply Comments [RTF]
- Citizens Utilities Co.
 - Comments [RTF]
 - Further Comments [RTF]
- Colorado Department of Education
 - Further Comments [to scan]
- Colorado Independent Telephone Association
 - Comments [to scan]
- Colorado PUC
 - Comments [scanned]
- Colorado State Library
 - Reply Comments [scanned]
 - Further Comments [RTF]

- Commercial Internet Exchange Association
 - [Comments](#) [linked]
- CommNet Cellular
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Communication Workers of America
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [scanned]
- Community Technology Centers' Network
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Competition Policy Institute
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Competitive Telecommunications Association
 - [Comments](#) [RTF]
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- CompuServe
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 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Comsat
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
- Consumer Federation of America
 - Further Comments [to scan]
- Consumer Project on Technology
 - [Comments](#) [linked]
- Continental Cablevision
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
- Council of Chief State School Officers
 - [Comments](#) [linked]
- Council of Organizational Representatives
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Council of the Great City Schools
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
 - Further Comments [to scan]
- Council on Competitiveness
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
- Curtis Telephone
 - [Reply Comments](#) [scanned]
- Dell Telephone
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- District of Columbia Public Service Commission
 - [Reply Comments](#) [scanned]
- Early Childhood Development Center Legislative Coalition
 - Comments [to scan]
- Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition
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 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]
- Educom
 - [Comments](#) [scanned]
- ETEX
 - [Reply Comments](#) [RTF]